

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 253305

62

ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /011 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/ECA;FERONDON:JC

APPROVED BY ARA/ECA:RWZIMMERMANN

DESIRED DISTRIBUTION

ARA ONLY

----- 038963

O 130209Z OCT 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 253305

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, US, AR

SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS OBSERVANCE REPORT

REF: B.A. 6494

DRAFT OF SECOND PART OF HUMAN RIGHTS OBSERVANCE REPORT  
FOR ARGENTINA FOLLOWS FOR EMBASSY'S URGENT COMMENT AND  
STRENGTHENING WHERE POSSIBLE. REQUIRE IMMEDIATE REPLY.

BEGIN TEXT.

B. UNITED STATES STEPS ON BEHALF OF HUMAN RIGHTS

(I) DIPLOMATIC STEPS. THE SUBJECT OF HUMAN RIGHTS HAS BEEN  
RAISED REPEATEDLY DURING 1976 BY DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND  
AMERICAN EMBASSY OFFICIALS BOTH IN WASHINGTON AND BUENOS  
AIRES. AWARE OF OUR INTEREST IN THIS MATTER, ARGENTINE  
OFFICIALS THEMSELVES HAVE BROACHED THE SUBJECT OFTEN. IN  
FACT, NO OTHER SUBSTANTIVE SUBJECT HAS BEEN DISCUSSED MORE  
OFTEN WITH THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT THAN HUMAN RIGHTS.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 253305

THE AMBASSADOR HAS RAISED THE MATTER OF HUMAN RIGHTS WITH PRESIDENT VIDELA. THE SAME SUBJECT HAS BEEN THE TOPIC OF CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE, THE DEPUTY SECRETARY, THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR AMERICAN REPUBLICS AND OUR AMBASSADOR. SIMILARLY, THE SUBJECT HAS BEEN DISCUSSED OFTEN WITH ARGENTINA'S AMBASSADORS IN WASHINGTON AND WITH OFFICERS OF THE ARGENTINE EMBASSY. IN BUENOS AIRES, THE AMBASSADOR HAS ALSO TALKED ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS TO THE COMMANDER OF THE NAVY, WHO IS ALSO A MEMBER OF THE ARGENTINE JUNTA, AND TO MOST MEMBERS OF THE CABINET, INCLUDING THE MINISTER OF THE ECONOMY AND THE MINISTER OF INTERIOR. IN ADDITION, EMBASSY OFFICERS AND VISITING AMERICAN OFFICIALS DISCUSS HUMAN RIGHTS REGULARLY IN CONVERSATIONS WITH THEIR ARGENTINE COUNTERPARTS. (HAVE OUR MILITARY ATTACHES AND MILGP OFFICERS RAISED HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS WITH ARGENTINE OFFICERS? IF SO, PLEASE ADD AN APPROPRIATE SENTENCE.)

IN THESE DISCUSSIONS, THE FOLLOWING TOPICS HAVE BEEN RAISED OFTEN BY AMERICAN OFFICERS:

-- ACCESS TO AND THE TREATMENT OF AMERICAN PRISONERS HELD ON POLITICAL CHARGES.

-- CONDEMNATION OF MASS MURDERS, AND THE INDISCRIMINATE KILLINGS OF POLITICAL REFUGEES AND PRIESTS.

--THE URGENT NEED TO CONTROL VIGILANTE GROUPS AND PUNISH TERRORISM OF BOTH THE LEFT AND THE RIGHT.

-- THE SAFETY OF POLITICAL REFUGEES.

-- ANTI-SEMITISM.

-- THE NEED TO RESTORE BASIC FREEDOMS.

-- THE NEED TO BRING THOSE ACCUSED OF SUBVERSION TO TRIAL AND RELEASE OTHERS.

-- THE NEED TO PUBLISH THE NAMES OF PRISONERS.  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03     STATE 253305

-- AT THE BEHEST OF CONGRESS AND AMERICAN CITIZENS, WE HAVE ALSO INQUIRED FREQUENTLY ABOUT ARGENTINE AND OTHER NON-AMERICAN NATIONALS HELD IN DETENTION.

WHILE MOST OF OUR DIPLOMACY HAS BEEN PRIVATE, THE AMBASSADOR DID RAISE THE SUBJECT OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN AN INTERVIEW PUBLISHED IN JULY BY ARGENTINA'S LEADING

BUSINESS PUBLICATION, "MERCADO." THE AMBASSADOR NOTED THAT HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS HAD DISTURBED U.S. RELATIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THIS WOULD NOT HAPPEN WITH ARGENTINA BECAUSE OF PRESIDENT VIDELA'S PROMISE TO RESPECT HUMAN RIGHTS.

(ARE THERE OTHER EXAMPLES OF PUBLIC DIPLOMACY? WHAT ABOUT USIS ROLE IN PROMOTING THE OBSERVANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS? FOR EXAMPLE, WHAT KIND OF TREATMENT DID THE SECRETARY'S OAS SPEECH ON HUMAN RIGHTS RECEIVE?)

(II) STEPS TO DISASSOCIATE THE UNITED STATES AND ITS SECURITY ASSISTANCE FROM HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS.

IN SEPTEMBER, OUR EMBASSY IN BUENOS AIRES OUTLINED THE HUMAN RIGHTS PROVISIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL SECURITY ASSISTANCE AND ARMS EXPORT CONTROL ACT OF 1976 TO HIGH-LEVEL ARGENTINE OFFICIALS, GIVING A COPY OF THE LAW TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY ON SEPTEMBER 12.

C. SECURITY ASSISTANCE.

(I) CIRCUMSTANCES NECESSITATING SUCH ASSISTANCE.

UNITED STATES SECURITY ASSISTANCE TO ARGENTINA FOR FISCAL

YEAR 1977 CONSISTS OF \$48.4 MILLION IN FOREIGN MILITARY SALES CREDITS AND \$700,000 IN GRANT MILITARY TRAINING. THESE SUMS WERE PROPOSED TO CONGRESS SOON AFTER THE VIDELA GOVERNMENT CAME TO POWER AND BEFORE IT WAS APPARENT THAT THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN ARGENTINA WOULD DETERIORATE.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 253305

U.S. SECURITY ASSISTANCE TO ARGENTINA IS BY NO MEANS CRUCIAL TO THE ARGENTINES. OUR FMS CREDITS ARE LOANS, PROVIDED AT SLIGHTLY LESS THAN COMMERCIAL RATES OF INTEREST.

SECURITY ASSISTANCE IS A TOKEN OF OUR DESIRE TO COOPERATE MILITARILY WITH A COUNTRY WHICH HAS 1,000 MILES OF COASTLINE ON THE SOUTH ATLANTIC REACHING TO CAPE HORN. OUR ASSISTANCE ORIENTS THE ARGENTINE MILITARY PROFESSIONALLY TOWARD THE UNITED STATES, EXPOSING THEM TO OUR TECHNOLOGY AND METHODS. IN RETURN, IT OFFERS THE UNITED STATES READY ACCESS TO THE ARGENTINE MILITARY WHO HAVE ALWAYS INFLUENCED EVENTS IN THEIR COUNTRY. IT ALSO GIVES THE ARGENTINE MILITARY A CERTAIN VESTED INTEREST IN GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES. THIS HELPS PROTECT

OUR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC INTERESTS. THE FORMER RELATE ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY TO ARGENTINA'S POTENTIAL AS A MIDDLE POWER. ARGENTINA HAS THE BEST EDUCATED POPULATION IN LATIN AMERICA, A HIGH RATE OF INDUSTRIALIZATION, AND IS ONE OF THE LEADING EXPORTERS OF FOODSTUFFS. IN ADDITION, IT HAS SUBSTANTIAL URANIUM DEPOSITS, WELL TRAINED

PHYSICISTS AND AMBITIOUS PLANS FOR NUCLEAR POWER DEVELOPMENT. U.S. DIRECT INVESTMENT IN ARGENTINA TOTALS \$1.4 BILLION; U.S. EXPORTS WERE \$628 MILLION IN 1975; OUR IMPORTS WERE \$215 MILLION; AND WE HAVE A CREDIT EXPOSURE OF ABOUT \$2.7 BILLION, OF WHICH ALMOST \$600 MILLION IS OWED TO THE EXIMBANK AND THE BALANCE TO COMMERCIAL BANKS.

U.S. MILITARY CREDITS ARE USED ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY FOR MAJOR INVESTMENT TYPE ITEMS, SUCH AS SHIPS AND AIRCRAFT. THEY HAVE LITTLE OR NO BEARING ON THE COUNTERTERRORIST CAPABILITY OF THE ARMED FORCES.

(II) NATIONAL INTEREST DETERMINATION.

IN ORDER TO PRESERVE A PROFESSIONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE ARGENTINE ARMED FORCES AND DEMONSTRATE OUR INTEREST IN GOOD OVERALL RELATIONS WITH ARGENTINA, THEREBY PROTECTING THE INTERESTS OUTLINED ABOVE, THE DEPARTMENT  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 05 STATE 253305

OF STATE BELIEVES IT IS IN THE NATIONAL INTEREST OF THE UNITED STATES TO PROVIDE CONTINUED MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO ARGENTINA. OCTOBER 15, 1976. END TEXT

2. FOREGOING RESPONDS TO SECTION 502 B (C) (1) (B) AND (C) OF SECURITY ASSISTANCE ACT AND MUST BE SUBMITTED TO FRASER SUBCOMMITTEE BY OCTOBER 21 (30 DAYS) IN ORDER TO AVOID POSSIBLE SUSPENSION OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS. EMBASSY MAY WISH TO REFER TO TEXT OF LAW AS IT REVIEWS DRAFT. REPLY NEEDED BY COB OCTOBER 13. ROBINSON

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** HUMAN RIGHTS, REPORTS, INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 13 OCT 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ShawDG  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976STATE253305  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** JC  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760383-1352  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19761056/aaaabwpm.tel  
**Line Count:** 211  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ORIGIN ARA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** ONLY  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 4  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** ONLY  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ShawDG  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 09 JUL 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <09 JUL 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <28 OCT 2004 by ShawDG>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** HUMAN RIGHTS OBSERVANCE REPORT  
**TAGS:** SHUM, US, AR  
**To:** BUENOS AIRES  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006